

Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/830,229 First Named Applicant: Masayoshi Umeda
 Examiner: Kumar, Kalyanavenka K. Art Unit: 3653 Status of Application: Final OA

Tentative Participants:
 (1) Patrick H. Mackey (2) Kalyanavenka K. Kumar

(3) Joe Price (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: March 12, 2009 Proposed Time: Earliest Convenience (AM/PM)

Type of Interview Requested:
 (1) Telephonic (2) Personal (3) Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: YES NO
 If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc.)	Claims / Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>Rej.</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Furukawa</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) " "	"	<u>Stoltz</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) _____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Continuation Sheet Attached

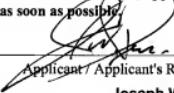
Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

See attached Topics for Discussion.

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.


 Applicant / Applicant's Representative Signature

Joseph W. Price

Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

25,124

Registration Number, if applicable

Examiner / SPE Signature

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Masayoshi Umeda

Serial No.: 10/830,229

Filed: April 22, 2004

For: A BELT-DRIVEN COIN
SEPARATING APPARATUS

Patent Examiner: Kumar, Kalyanavenka K.

Group Art Unit: 3653

Confirmation No. 7764

March 9, 2009

Costa Mesa, California 92626

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION FOR TELEPHONE INTERVIEW

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sirs:

Please see attached for discussion purposes.

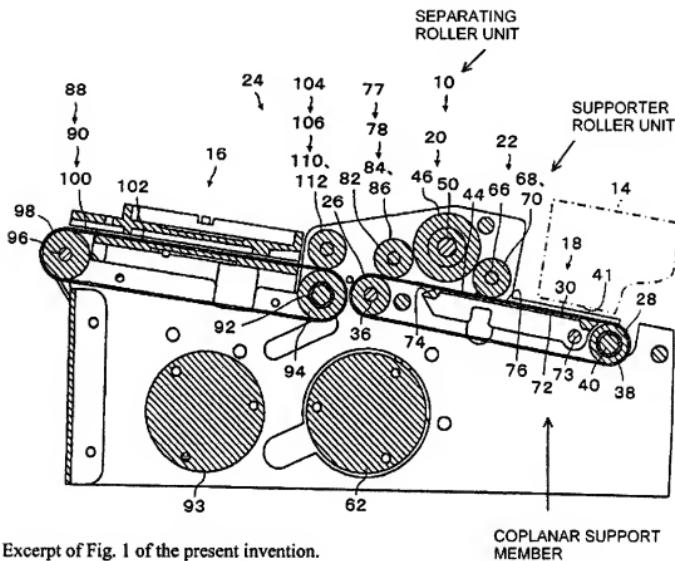
1. (Currently Amended) A coin separating unit comprising:
a coin transporting unit including a flexible first rotatable belt for receiving coins
of different size on a support surface of the first rotatable belt that translates the coins linearly for
subsequent processing, the support surface having a predetermined flexibility and friction
characteristic to engage the coins for linear translation and to enable coin movement transverse
to a direction of movement where the coin transporting unit provides forward drive of the coins;

a separating roller unit positioned above the support surface at a distance no
greater than twice the thickness of the coins to be separated, the surface of the separating roller
unit closest to the support surface moving in a direction opposite to the movement of the support
surface; [[and]]

a supporter roller unit mounted on a pivotable lever is operatively located
upstream of the separating roller unit, rotates freely around the rotating shaft, contacts the first
rotatable belt, moves away from the first rotatable belt when the coin contacts the supporter
roller unit, the separating roller unit and the supporter roller unit rotate about parallel axes
extending above and across the rotatable belt, the supporter roller unit is only driven by contact
with the rotatable belt or passing coin and[[.]]

a coplanar support member with railing and leading edges configured to reduce
interference is mounted for relative movement adjacent and underneath the flexible rotatable belt
to limit the extend of transverse coin movement beneath the separating roller unit to enable only
a single coin to pass beneath the separating roller.

The proposed Claim 1 amended, can be seen from the cross-sectional view of Figure 1 of the present application as follows.

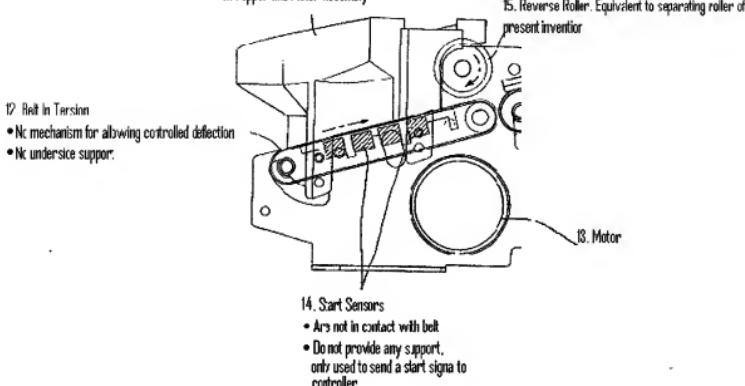


Excerpt of Fig. 1 of the present invention.

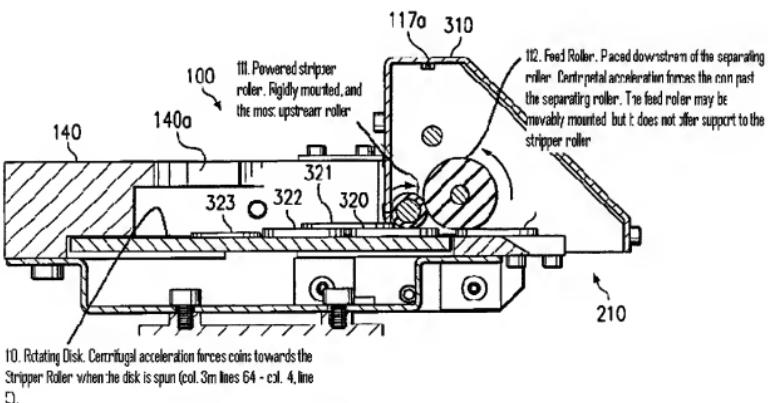
As can be seen, the separating unit 10, the support roller unit 70 and the flexible rotatable belt include a pivoting coplanar support member 72 located between the upper and lower belt of the coin transporting unit 18. The support member 72 can be moved downward to a predetermined distance to enable a single coin to be released below the separating roller unit. See Paragraphs 0050, 0051.

The original Claim 1 was rejected over the *Furikawa* reference in view of the *Stolz et al.* reference.

II. Hopper and Motor Assembly



Relevant portion of Fig. 4 from the *Stoltz* reference.



Additionally, the Office Action rejected Claim 22 that depended on Claim 1 by further citing the *DeVries et al.* reference as follows.

The adjacent Figures depict the scraper system of Figure 12 installed on a conveyor system.

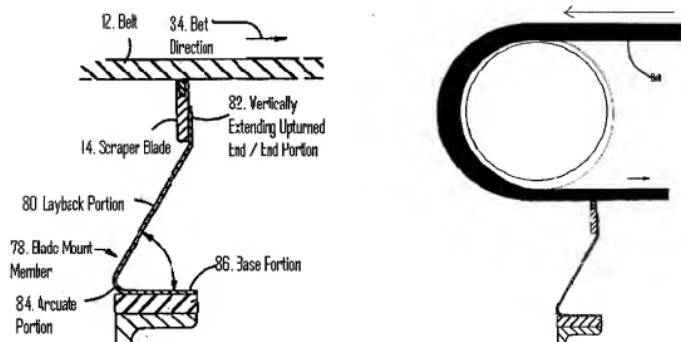
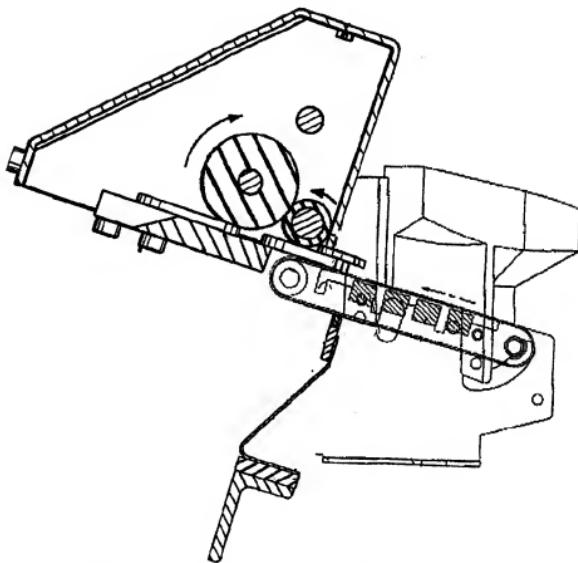


Fig. 12 from the *De Vries et al.* reference.

DeVries as installed on conveyer.

The following Figures show a hypothetical combination of the prior art references and the present invention. A comparison of the two Figures will reveal that the supporter unit including supporter roller members 68 and 70 and coplanar pivoting support member 72 of our invention have no equivalents in the cited prior art.



Hypothetical combination of *Furukawa, Stoltz, and DeVries et al.*